



# GRACE-ST. LUKE'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
CHRISTMAS EVE**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH MUSIC**

**DECEMBER 24, 2020 9:00 PM**

**VIA LIVESTREAM**

This service is according to the Liturgy of the Word of The Episcopal Church. Text in boldface type is read aloud or sung by the congregation. Text in italics provides directions or details. Explore the richness of the BCP online at [bcponline.org](http://bcponline.org) including Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families. During this service, please feel free to stand, sit, or even kneel at the appointed times and practice any personal pieties that might enhance your engagement in this experience.

**Welcome to Worship:** *Thank you for making Grace-St. Luke's part of your spiritual journey and for joining us today for this virtual worship offering. If you are new among us, please complete an online Connect Card at [gracestlukes.org/online-visitor-card](http://gracestlukes.org/online-visitor-card). Our clergy-staff team would like to reach out to learn more about you and to explore how life at Grace-St. Luke's might bless your journey and you bless ours. For more about our thriving faith community including online formation (learning) offerings, please visit [www.gracestlukes.org](http://www.gracestlukes.org).*

**Celebrant & Preacher:** The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

**Assisting:** The Rev. Laura F. Gettys

**Prelude:** "CHRISTMAS LULLABY"

*music and text: John Rutter (b. 1945)*

Clear in the darkness a light shines in Bethlehem:  
 Angels are singing, their sound fills the air.  
 Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah;  
 But only a mother and baby lie there.  
*'Ave Maria': Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.  
 'Ave Maria, Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King'*

What though your treasures are not gold or incense?  
 Lay them before him with hearts full of love.  
 Praise to the Christ child, and praise to his mother  
 Who bore us a Saviour by grace from above.  
*refrain*

Where are his courtiers, and who are his people?  
 Why does he bear neither sceptre nor crown?  
 Shepherds his courtiers, the poor for his people,  
 With peace as his sceptre and love for his crown.  
*refrain*

**Welcome, Announcements and Children's Message**

## The Word of God

**Hymn 83, stanzas 1-3, & 6, "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"**

*music: Adeste fideles, attrib. John Francis Wade (1711-1786)  
 text: John Francis Wade; tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others*

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2. God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
 Je - su, to thee be glo - ry given;

come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
 Word of the Fath - er, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him. Christ, the Lord.

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

### The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn 96, stanzas 1 & 4, "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"** *music: Gloria, French carol, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958);  
text: French carol, transl. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.*

1. An-gels we have heard on high, sing-ing sweet-ly through thenight,  
4. See him in a man-ger laid whom the an-gels praise a-bove;  
and the moun-tains in re-ply ech-o-ing their brave de-light.  
Ma-ry, Jo-seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.  
Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o  
Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.** *Silence*

### Psalm 98 read responsively by whole verse

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 **With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.**
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.**
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.**
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.**

**A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews**

1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.** *Silence*

**The Gospel**

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Homily:** The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

*The Priest invites the People to stand for The Nicene Creed.*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father**

**and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*The Priest invites the People to stand or kneel for the*

**The Prayers of the People, Form III**

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, including thanksgivings for the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that support life at Grace-St. Luke's; for our School and all schools that serve our community; for the Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church, and the Diocese of West Tennessee; for the baptism of Ruby Catheryne Ward, daughter of Clair McCalla and Robert Ward, and granddaughter of Mary and Jon McCalla, and for all individuals, communities, and organizations working tirelessly and creatively to respond to the needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

BCP 360

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The Celebrant and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Offertory

*During the offertory music or following this service, your offering supports this virtual ministry and much more of life at Grace-St. Luke's: visit [gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving](http://gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving); text GSLChurch ALMS to 73256 to give to ALMS; text GSLChurch PLEDGE to 73256 to give to your PLEDGE; or you may mail offerings to the church office. Our 2021 stewardship campaign, Resilience and Connection by Giving, is seeking 100% participation from all parishioners: visit [gracestlukes.org/pledge](http://gracestlukes.org/pledge). For information about worship, formation for all ages, ways to connect, serve and more, visit [www.gracestlukes.org](http://www.gracestlukes.org).*

## Anthem at the Offertory

*“GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO, FROM ‘GLORIA’”*

*music: Antonio Vivaldi (1676?-1741)*

*Gloria, in excelsis deo.  
Glory to God in the highest.*

## The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Spiritual Communion Prayers

*These rich words are recited daily throughout the church catholic (universal) by individuals and communities unable to gather for public worship for whatever reason, while also longing for the occasion to participate in the Episcopal Church's central practice of receiving the Holy Sacrament.*

**In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly Grace-St. Luke's and those worshipping there, I long to offer praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory, and particularly for the blessings given me.**

**I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.**

**Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

At this time, we invite you to light a candle and join in singing. May our lit candles serve as tangible symbol of our unity and connectedness to one another, for the Spirit of God cannot be confined to a building.

**Hymn 111, "SILENT NIGHT"**

music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)  
text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

**The Blessing**

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**  
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

# Hymn 87, "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.  
Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

## The Dismissal

BCP 366

*The people are dismissed with these words*

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

**Voluntary:** "IMPROVISATION ON 'JOY TO THE WORLD'"

Patrick A. Scott

*Continue the day, giving thanks to God for blessings known and known, and by reaching out in care for fellow parishioners, neighbors, and any persons in need. Members of the parish with any needs or pastoral concerns: email [pastoralcare@gracestlukes.org](mailto:pastoralcare@gracestlukes.org) or dial 901-252-6320, and for hospitalizations or emergencies, dial the 24/7 Clergy-on-Call phone line at 901-252-6334.*

**The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Celebrant & Preacher**

**The Rev. Laura F. Gettys, Assisting**

**Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist**

**Isabel Wittman, Charles McGowan, Daniel Massey, & Andrew Carroll, Cantors**

**Quartet 441: Noel Medford, Jerald Walker, Kenneth Gillespie, & Anthony Lu**

**Lucy Owens, Communications Administrator**

**The addition of the string quartet to this evening's Christmas Eve service is made possible by the generous gifts made to the Grace-St. Luke's Music Guild.**

### **Christmas Flowers are given in honor of**

Kathryn Elsberry Johnson from  
Caroline Crosby  
Sidney and David Hickey from Kacey  
and Brian Davies

### **Christmas Flowers are given in memory of**

Dr. and Mrs. Paul and Penny  
Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Ian and  
Kathy Boggs, and Dima Pajitnov  
from Steven, Paula, Carter and  
Cecily Boggs  
Susan Taylor, Parrish Taylor Jr.,  
Parrish Taylor III, and Wesley  
Emerson from The Carr Family  
Col & Mrs. Braxton Carter and Mr. &  
Mrs. Blanchard H. Gardner from  
The Carter Family  
Frank Adam Cianciolo, Lucy &  
Waldrup Brown, Kathryn Brown  
Butler, and Kathryn Streater Cobb  
from Frances B. Cianciolo  
Barbara A. Mallicote and Thomas  
Mallicote from Dr. & Mrs. Robert  
Ducklo  
David Voss Johnson Jr. from The  
Crosby Family  
Ron Ireland from Kacey and Brian  
Davies  
John H. Moloney from Carol  
Moloney

Thomas Ryan Prewitt Sr., Mary  
Louise Jones Prewitt, Benjamin  
Lane Carrick Jr., Mr. & Mrs.  
Michael A. Manetz, Mr. & Mrs. L.  
Hall Jones Sr., and Judge & Mrs.  
Alan McClarty Prewitt from Mr. &  
Mrs. Julian Jones Prewitt  
Kyle K Anderson from Minje and Dr.  
Randy Ramey  
Peggy Sighting and Steve McHugh  
from Joey Sighting & Family  
Stonewall Jackson Shepherd,  
Caroline Davis Shepherd, Simpson  
Tate, Adele Shepherd Tate,  
Simpson Tate Jr., Mary Ann  
Ramsey Tate, S. Shepherd Tate,  
Janet Graf Tate, Adele Shepherd  
Tate, Caroline Tate Walker, John  
R. Walker, Gordon Edrington Tate,  
Alice Price Tate, Granville Tate,  
and Ellen Lee Fisher Tate from  
Shepherd and Sandy Tate  
Elizabeth Mullinax, Elaine Brown,  
Evelyn Robbins, & Frank Mullinax  
from Sharon Taylor

### **Christmas Gifts for More Than A Meal are given in memory of**

The Rev. John Moloney from Carol  
Moloney  
Francis Chapman Sellers from  
Chapman Morrow

### **Christmas Gifts for More Than A Meal are given in honor of**

Barb Boucher from Jonathan Large  
Mike Davis from Ruthie Lentz and  
Edith Heller  
Earle Donelson from Ruthie Lentz  
and Edith Heller  
Spencer Gooch from Jonathan Large  
Karen Harper from Edith Heller and  
Jonathan Large  
Edith Heller from Ruthie Lentz and  
Jonathan Large  
Edith and Bob Heller from Elizabeth  
and Andy Hyde  
Jonathan Large from Ruthie Lentz  
and Edith Heller  
Ruthie Lentz from Edith Heller  
Ruthie Lentz and Earle Donelson  
from Jonathan Large  
Murray McKay from Edith Heller  
Murray and Dana McKay from  
Ruthie Lentz and Jonathan Large  
Duncan McLean from Jonathan Large  
Arthur Nave from Edith Heller  
Betty Peyton from Ruthie Lentz,  
Edith Heller and Jonathan Large  
Jerry and Donna Sanders from Edith  
Heller  
McKee Whittemore from Jonathan  
Large  
Tiger from Jonathan Large  
More Than a Meal Volunteers from  
Chapman Morrow  
The volunteers who make this  
ministry possible to help our  
neighbors in need from Juan  
Fuentes and Robert Thompson

## Weekly Message from the Clergy

**For Nothing Will Be Impossible With God.** This week's reflection focuses on the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel informed Mary that she would conceive God's son by the power of the Holy Spirit. Approximately two thousand years ago, Gabriel reminded Mary that nothing will be impossible with God. Bishop Phoebe Roaf will explore how this message of hope continues to inspire faithful believers even when the challenges we face seem insurmountable. – The Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf (Full text and video available here: [www.gracestlukes.org/news/advent4-clergy-reflection](http://www.gracestlukes.org/news/advent4-clergy-reflection).)

**Creating A Better World.** Christmas, the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, invites us to be and do better in the name of the One for whom we wait during Advent. The birth of Christ the Savior, who was born into conditions that paradoxically mirror modern forms of poverty, division, and exclusion, was the mysterious delivery and revelation of the One we are called to follow. Today, particularly as the world journeys through the COVID-19 pandemic, Christians intentionally are called to ponder how we might respond to Christmas with our own lives. – The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher (Full text and video available here: [www.gracestlukes.org/news/christmas-message-from-the-rector](http://www.gracestlukes.org/news/christmas-message-from-the-rector).)

## Take Note: New Highlights

**GSL Pausing In-Person Services.** The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector, shared an important message regarding diocesan faith communities pausing in-person offerings effective December 21 and beginning several weeks of virtual only on Christmas Eve. Follow this link for details: [www.gracestlukes.org/COVID19](http://www.gracestlukes.org/COVID19).

### CHRISTMAS EVE, THURSDAY, DEC. 24

**Virtual Video** of Christmas Lessons and Carols. [tinyurl.com/GSLChristmasLessonsCarols2020](http://tinyurl.com/GSLChristmasLessonsCarols2020)

**Virtual Video** of GSL Youth & Children Holiday Greetings, Christmas Pageant and slideshow of Creches (Nativity Scenes) from parishioner homes and GSL.

[tinyurl.com/GSLChristmasPageant2020](http://tinyurl.com/GSLChristmasPageant2020)

**2 p.m.** - Service of Prayers with sermon, choral ensemble, hymns, music for flute and organ, and selected tenor arias from *Messiah* by Handel. Live on the GSL website and Facebook.

**8 to 8:15 p.m.** - Compline (Night Prayers) officiated by the clergy. Facebook Live

**9 p.m.** - Service of Evening Prayers with sermon, choral ensemble, hymns, music for organ, and string quartet with the "Gloria in excelsis" by Vivaldi. Live on the GSL website and Facebook.

**Previously recorded live services may be viewed at** [gracestlukes.org/virtual-offerings/worship-music](http://gracestlukes.org/virtual-offerings/worship-music).

### CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY, DEC. 25

**10 a.m.** - Service of Morning Prayers with homily, hymns and music for organ. Live on the GSL website and Facebook.

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY, DEC. 27

**10:30 a.m.** - Service of Morning Prayers with sermon and music. Live on the GSL website and Facebook.

### SECOND AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY, JAN. 3

**10:30 a.m.** - Service of Morning Prayers with sermon and music. Live on the GSL website and Facebook.

**What Can I Give Christ?** Read more under *Stewardship*.

**Christmastide into Epiphany.** Our updated schedule of offerings for Christmastide into Epiphany is available online at [www.gracestlukes.org/news/advent-christmas-epiphany](http://www.gracestlukes.org/news/advent-christmas-epiphany).

**Parish Office Holiday Schedule.** The church office will be closed December 25, 28, 29, 30, and January 1. The Office will be open December 31 and resume regular hours on January 4. For pastoral or hospital emergencies concerning a member or after-hours parish facilities management matters, contact the Clergy-on-Call at 901-252-6334.

**1 Week, 1 Day at a Time at Mid-South Sober Living.** Sponsor a one-week scholarship. Details below under *Outreach*.

**The Feast of the Epiphany, Wednesday, January 6, 6 p.m.** Virtual Burning of the Greens with homily and music will be available live on the GSL website and Facebook. The Advent-Christmas greenery used to decorate our buildings will be burned by the clergy.

**Ongoing events, less recent news, and more, explore below:** *Worship and Music, Virtual Offerings, Stewardship, Christian Formation, Athletics, Recreation, and Wellness, Community Life, Outreach, and Quick Links.*

## Worship and Music

### SUNDAY

**10:30 a.m. Virtual Service of Morning Prayers with sermon and music.** Live on the GSL website and Facebook. **Sunday morning adult formation (9:15 a.m.) and Sunday evening contemplative events (5:30 p.m.) will resume will resume on January 10.**

### WEEKDAYS

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, Compline (Night Prayers), 8 until 8:15 p.m. via Facebook Live.** There will be no Compline on New Year's Eve.

**For more information about worship,** visit [www.gracestlukes.org/worship](http://www.gracestlukes.org/worship); **music,** visit [www.gracestlukes.org/music](http://www.gracestlukes.org/music); and **sacramental life events,** visit [www.gracestlukes.org/connect/in-the-church/life-events](http://www.gracestlukes.org/connect/in-the-church/life-events).

## Stewardship: Time, Talent, Treasure

**What Can I Give Christ?** One of the most moving poems associated with Christmas is Christina Rossetti's "In the Bleak Midwinter," which speaks movingly of Christ's gift to us and our response. As we pray this Christmas, let us remember all of the ways we give through and to our parish church, Grace-St. Luke's. In the bleak, seemingly endless season that has been 2020, Grace-St. Luke's has sought to be both a source of community and connection as well as a beacon of hope. So many have come together to find creative ways of supporting one other and those in need. Now, as we look to the future with the light of Christ in us, we do so in hopes that with God's help and your support, the fullness of our community will be restored in 2021. As we long for that future, we rejoice in the ways our parish stands together, provides for one another, and gives to the church. The next year may continue to look different for a while, but our call and our response as followers of Christ remain the same. With your generous and faithful gifts, Grace-St. Luke's can continue doing what love requires of us by nurturing ministries both inside and outside our parish walls. Please prayerfully consider how you can serve and give to our church and make a pledge for 2021 at [www.gracestlukes.org/pledge](http://www.gracestlukes.org/pledge).

## Christian Formation

### Adults

**Sunday morning and weekday formation offerings** resume on January 10 according to the new and developing Winter 2021 Adult Formation schedule at [www.gracestlukes.org/discover/adult-formation](http://www.gracestlukes.org/discover/adult-formation).

### Youth

**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your family!** EYC and youth formation will reconvene on Sunday, January 10. If you wish to be added to the Youth Formation email list, contact Director of Youth Formation Amzie Williams ([awilliams@gracestlukes.org](mailto:awilliams@gracestlukes.org)).

### Children

Thank you so much, families of Grace-St. Luke's! Your photo and video submissions for our special Christmas Eve video premiere are wonderful, and we're so excited for you to see the final product on Facebook, YouTube and [www.gracestlukes.org/childrens-formation](http://www.gracestlukes.org/childrens-formation). Note: No Virtual Prayer Table on Sunday, December 27. Resumes Sunday, January 3. For more information or to be added to the Children's Formation email list, please contact Director of Children's Formation Sharon Campbell ([scampbell@gracestlukes.org](mailto:scampbell@gracestlukes.org)).

## Athletics, Recreation, and Wellness

**The GSL Church Walking Group is canceled until further notice.**

**YOGA WITH SHANTIH.** No need to let holiday stress get under your skin - join us for a weekly yoga class to help combat the holiday-crazy! The benefits of yoga range from stress reduction, physical balance and strength to improved energy, flexibility and relaxation. Shantih's class is distinguished by the knowledge, experience and practice that only 19 years of teaching can provide. Class will focus on proper body alignment while practicing the traditional yoga postures. Options will be offered to make the poses more or less demanding depending one's personal interest/ability level. Come join us! Follow this link ([www.gracestlukes.org/events/yoga-with-shantih](http://www.gracestlukes.org/events/yoga-with-shantih)) for signup details and Zoom info.

**2021 WINTER BASKETBALL PROGRAM.** This Winter, GSL Church is offering a 7-week (8 Sessions) Basketball Program to include Fundamental Training & Skill Development/Skill Stations/Contests/Scrimmages & Tons of FUN! Follow this link for details: [www.gracestlukes.org/youthbasketball](http://www.gracestlukes.org/youthbasketball).

## Community Life

**2021 Firepit Soirees: Leap Into the Light of Epiphany.** Bundle up and join us to celebrate Epiphany around the fire pits of fellow GSL members from 6-7 p.m. on three evenings in January & February. Bring your own beverage, chair, blanket, mask, and visit for an hour with new and old friends. We will randomly assign you to three soirees on your chosen weekday evening so it's an opportunity to meet different Episcopalians at each soiree. Additional details and signup link here: [www.gracestlukes.org/news/2021-firepit-soirees](http://www.gracestlukes.org/news/2021-firepit-soirees).

**The December-January edition of *The Messenger*** includes news about Worship for Advent-Christmas-Epiphany, Pastoral Care, Formation for Adults, Youth and Children, Stewardship, Social Justice, Outreach, Music, Athletics, Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School, and more. Read online at [gracestlukes.org/the-messenger](http://gracestlukes.org/the-messenger) or download a copy.

## Outreach

**1 Week, 1 Day at a Time at Mid-South Sober Living.** We've all had our challenges this year, but take just a minute to think about those who have taken that brave first step away from addiction in such a stressful time. Servant Ministry Partner Mid-South Sober Living provides transitional housing centers for people who are new in recovery. Time spent in one of their centers provides individuals with the opportunity to learn to live outside of the structure of a rehabilitation program while maintaining their alcohol and drug free lifestyle. You can have a direct, positive impact on one of Mid-South Sober Living's clients by sponsoring a one week housing scholarship. See details here ([midsouthsoberliving.org/donate.html](http://midsouthsoberliving.org/donate.html)).

## Quick Links

**Follow these links to frequently visited pages on our website and Facebook.**

- Facebook LIVE  
[www.facebook.com/gracestlukes/live](http://www.facebook.com/gracestlukes/live)
- LIVE Virtual Worship, Music, Formation Offerings  
[www.gracestlukes.org/live](http://www.gracestlukes.org/live)
- Hope and Good News:  
[www.gracestlukes.org/discover/spiritaul-guidance](http://www.gracestlukes.org/discover/spiritaul-guidance)
- Pastoral Care, Prayer List, and Prayer Requests:  
[www.gracestlukes.org/prayerrequest](http://www.gracestlukes.org/prayerrequest)
- Subscribe to GSL, Diocesan & The Episcopal Church eNews:  
[www.gracestlukes.org/enews](http://www.gracestlukes.org/enews)
- Information about Fraudulent Emails & Text:  
[www.gracestlukes.org/news/phishing](http://www.gracestlukes.org/news/phishing)
- *The Messenger*, Bi-monthly Magazine:  
[www.gracestlukes.org/the-messenger](http://www.gracestlukes.org/the-messenger)
- Realm Connect: GSL Directory & More:  
[www.gracestlukes.org/realm](http://www.gracestlukes.org/realm)

# The Prayer List

**Our prayers are asked for** Brad Larson, Patty McManus, Kaye, John, Caroline Clay, Betsy Tate, Nancy Wilkerson, Kristin King, Charles Chandler, Michael Wills, Jake Seymour, Alymarie “Dooney” Twele, Annelise Ware Simmons, Felix Dae Sanders, Price Hays, The McKissack Family, Robert Harrison, Carolyn Wills, and Amanda Adams.

**Our prayers are asked for those who have died**, especially those who have died from coronavirus.

**We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays**, especially Phil Ashford, Mark Billions, Martha Billions, Marty Carr, Mary Coleman, Amelia Cowan, Allison Harris, John Hartney, Charles King, Lisa Landman, Mary Lovelace, Hope McClew, Elizabeth Mercer, Tem Mitchell, Jack Montgomery, Mary Katherine Thinnies, and Susanna Weston, Nelson Adrian, David Brown, Anna Margaret Burnett, Alice Burruss, Karen Clark, Olivia Gooch, Lucy Leitzell, Henry McGehee, Jim Moore, Mat Parker, Alice Ray, Jackie Standridge, Sharon Taylor, Clara Tragesser, Selden Tual, Faith Van Doren, Marci Woodmansee, Kathy Berrie, David Cheatham, Gabrielle Davidson, Vera Rosato, Barbara Viser, Fairfax Wynne, **for those celebrating wedding anniversaries**, especially Amy & Brooks Smythe, Webster & Sandy Riggs, Mark & Debbie Herr, Rodgers & Nancy Menzies, Jet & Betsy Tate, Lee & Mary Linda Wardlaw, Hal & Jane Morse, Jon & Faith Van Doren, Brett & Stephanie Hughes, Buddy & Barbara Adams, Richard & Ann Sullivan, and Howard & Baylor Stovall, for the December 23 baptism of Ruby Catheryne Ward, daughter of Clair McCalla and Robert Ward, and granddaughter of Mary and Jon McCalla.

**Prayer List and Prayer Requests.** To submit a prayer request for the Prayer List, you may contact Parish House Receptionist & Ministry Associate Abby Huber ([ahuber@gracestlukes.org](mailto:ahuber@gracestlukes.org), 901-252-6336) or complete the online Prayer Request Form ([www.gracestlukes.org/prayerrequest](http://www.gracestlukes.org/prayerrequest)). Names of persons, who have given consent for names to be printed, will be listed for one month, unless a longer period is requested. While certain concerns may be confidential between the clergy and the individual, others may not be. If you are wondering about an individual, please contact the individual directly or a member of the clergy. Intercessions are offered daily by the clergy and lay pastoral care ministers and reflected in the worship service leaflet.

## Online Giving

Make a one time gift now by scanning the QR code below with your smart phone!



## Recurring

Set up recurring 2021 pledge payments by scanning the QR code with your phone!



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**Clergy and Staff:** The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector; The Rev. Laura F. Gettys, Associate Rector; The Rev. Anne S. Carrière, Priest Associate; Christi Authement, Athletics Director; Sharon Campbell, Director of Children’s Formation; Abby Huber, Receptionist and Ministry Associate; Chapman Morrow, Stewardship Associate; Lucy Owens, Communications Administrator; Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist; Debbie Smith, Assistant Organist-Choirmaster; Linda Stine, Parish Administrator; Darling “D” Thomas, Lead Facilities Assistant; Amzie Williams, Director of Youth Formation.  
*Clergy and staff contact information: [www.gracestlukes.org/welcome/clergy-and-staff](http://www.gracestlukes.org/welcome/clergy-and-staff).*

**Vestry and Treasurer:** Grant Adams (Youth Formation), Jimpie Ayres (Congregational Development), Wight Boggs (Clerk, Fellowship), Patrick Burnett (Youth Formation), Nina Callan (Pastoral Care), Ben Cowan (Children’s Formation), Mike Davis (Athletics), Jim Greer (Adult Formation), Sandra Ireland (Adult Formation), Jonathan Large (Outreach), Stinson Liles (Social Justice), Charlie Pazar (Jr. Warden, Property, Stewardship), Anna Robbins (Congregational Development), Tom Stephenson (Stewardship), Bev Trojan (Treasurer), and Simon Wadsworth (Sr. Warden, Administration & Communications, Stewardship)

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